



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11 April 2017

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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LIMITED THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2016-0076; PG&E R-300B, L-407 PHASE 1 NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT, SUTTER COUNTY

Our office received a Notice of Intent application on 15 December 2016 from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (hereinafter Discharger), for discharge of treated groundwater to surface water. Based on the application packet and subsequent information submitted by the Discharger, staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order), Tier 2. This project is hereby assigned Limited Threat General Order R5-2016-0076-002 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995002. Please reference your Limited Threat General Order number, **R5-2016-0076-002**, in your correspondence and submitted documents.

The enclosed Limited Threat General Order may also be viewed at the following web address: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076_mod.pdf. You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Limited Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring and reporting requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order.

CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING

The Limited Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, 2005, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP). Screening levels for CTR constituents are found in Attachment I of the Limited Threat General Order. Review of your influent water quality data in comparison to the screening values, showed reasonable potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to an exceedance of arsenic and manganese water quality objectives in the North Drainage Canal and Main Drainage Canal, tributaries to the Sacramento River. However, the proposed treatment system addresses the water quality concern by reducing constituent(s) concentrations below water quality objectives; therefore, the Project qualifies for the Limited Threat General Order.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Discharger is installing approximately 61,800 feet (11.7 miles) of new 30-inch natural gas pipeline for Line 407 to improve operability of its natural gas transmission pipelines. The Project is planned to proceed as follows:

- 1) From the northeast corner of Powerline and West Riego Road.
- 2) The Project then proceeds east along West Riego/Baseline Road under the North Drainage Canal, Highway 99, and North Main Canal to South Brewer Road for approximately 2.3 miles,
- 3) Then north along South Brewer Road for approximately 1300 feet,
- 4) Then east through agricultural land to County Acres Road for approximately 1 mile,
- 5) Then south along County Acres Road for approximately 1300 feet,
- 6) Then east along Baseline Road for about 3.9 miles.
- 7) The Project terminates at the intersection of Baseline Road and Walerga Road/Fiddymont Road.

Please see Attachment A for a figure depicting the planned discharge locations and the proposed location of 11.7 miles of natural gas pipeline installation described above.

The new pipeline will be installed using open trench installation, jack and bore drilling, and horizontal directional drilling. The Discharger is also applying to discharge to land under Statewide General Order 2003-0003-DWQ. It is anticipated that the dewatering of the bore pit excavations and trenches to surface water will be necessary if there is not enough capacity to discharge to land. Due to the length of the project, multiple discharge points may be utilized at one time, and the maximum estimated flow rate from one discharge point is 3.5 million gallons per day. It is anticipated that dewatering will begin on or after the issuance of the NOA and may be required intermittently until 31 October 2017 to complete construction.

The Discharger will place sediment screens in the dewatering wells or in the bottom of the trench to limit soil particulates in the excavation groundwater. The groundwater will then be conveyed via temporary PVC pipeline or water truck to a series of settling tanks as needed along the pipeline alignment to allow for sedimentation. Settled ground water will be pumped through particulate filters, green sand media, and activated carbon. Sodium hypochlorite will be added continuously prior to the green sand filter to enhance removal of iron and manganese. Organically modified zeolite or another specialized media will be used as the final unit process for trace metals removal.

Two discharge points in Sutter County will be used to discharge the treated groundwater. Discharge Point 001 (EFF-001) and Discharge Point 002 (EFF-002) will discharge to the North Drainage Canal and the Main Drainage Canal, respectively, both of which eventually discharge to the Sacramento River.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Effluent limitations are specified in Section V. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications of the Limited Threat General Order. The following effluent limitations are applicable to this discharge and are contained in Section V. A and B of the Limited Threat General Order:

A. Effluent Limitations – Applicable to All Limited Threat Discharges

A. Priority Pollutants and Constituents of Concern

a. Effluent Limitations – Discharge Point 001 and Discharge Point 002

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Arsenic, Total Recoverable	µg/L	10	20
Manganese, Total Recoverable ¹	µg/L	80	160

¹ Effluent limitation for manganese applicable to Discharge Point 002 only.

2. Acute Whole Effluent Toxicity. Survival of aquatic organisms in 96-hour bioassays of undiluted waste for all limited threat discharges shall be no less than:

- a. 70%, minimum for any one bioassay; and
- b. 90%, median for any three consecutive bioassays.

B. Effluent Limitations – Limited Threat Discharge to Specific Waterbodies

4. The pH of all limited threat discharges within the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (except Goose Creek) shall at all times be within the range of 6.5 and 8.5.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting requirements are contained in Attachment E of the Limited Threat General Order. The Discharger is required to comply with the following specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the effluent and receiving water in accordance with Attachment E of the Limited Threat General Order.

Monitoring Locations – The Discharger shall monitor the effluent and receiving water at the specified location as follows:

Table E-1. Monitoring Station Locations

Discharge Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
001	EFF-001	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to North Drainage Canal to Sacramento River (38° 44' 59.28" N, 121° 34' 51.21" W), Sutter County.
--	RSW-001U	North Drainage Canal, approximately 50 feet upstream from the point of discharge.
--	RSW-001D	North Drainage Canal, approximately 50 feet downstream from the point of discharge.
002	EFF-002	A location where a representative sample of the effluent can be collected prior to discharging to Main Drainage Canal to Sacramento River (38° 45' 2.55" N, 121° 32' 7.19" W), Sutter County.
--	RSW-002U	Main Drainage Canal, approximately 50 feet upstream from the point of discharge.
--	RSW-002D	Main Drainage Canal, approximately 50 feet downstream from the point of discharge.

Effluent Monitoring

A. Monitoring Location EFF-001 and EFF-002

1. When discharging to surface water from EFF-001 or EFF-002, the Discharger shall monitor the effluent at the respective discharge point as follows:

Table E-2. Effluent Monitoring EFF-001 and EFF-002

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Total Flow	MGD	Estimate	1/Day	2,3
Electrical Conductivity @ 25 °C	µmhos/cm	Grab	1/Month	2,3
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Month	2,3
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Month	2,3
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge Event	2,3,6
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Month	2,3
Hardness, Total (as CaCO ₃)	mg/L	Grab	1/Month	2,3
Arsenic, Total Recoverable	µg/L	Grab	1/Month	2,3,12
Manganese, Total Recoverable ¹³	µg/L	Grab	1/Month ¹³	2, 3
Acute Toxicity	% survival	Grab	1/Project Term ⁹	9

- ² For priority pollutant constituents without effluent limitations, the detection limits shall be equal to or less than the lowest ML published in Appendix 4 of the SIP. A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a U.S. EPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.
- ³ Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 CFR Part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.
- ⁶ Total chlorine residual must be monitored with a method sensitive to and accurate at a reporting level (RL) of 0.08 mg/L.
- ⁹ Acute toxicity testing shall be conducted within 3 months of initiation of discharge and shall be analyzed using EPA-821-R-02-012, Fifth Edition. The test species shall be fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*). See the MRP (Attachment C, section V) for additional toxicity monitoring requirements.
- ¹² For priority pollutant constituents the reporting level shall be consistent with Sections 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 of the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California.
- ¹³ Effluent monitoring for manganese applicable to EFF-002 only.

Receiving Water Monitoring - When discharging to surface water, the Discharger shall monitor, or provide monitoring data, for the receiving water at RSW-001U and RSW-001D through RSW-002U and RSW-002D, as appropriate, as follows:

Table E-4. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Required Analytical Test Method
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	Grab	1/Month	1,3
pH	standard units	Grab	1/Month	1,3
Hardness	mg/L	Grab	1/Month	1,3
Turbidity	NTU	Grab	1/Month	1,3

¹ Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 CFR Part 136 or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board.

³ A hand-held field meter may be used, provided the meter utilizes a USEPA-approved algorithm/method and is calibrated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A calibration and maintenance log for each meter used for monitoring required by this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the Facility.

Monitoring Report Submittals - Monitoring in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order shall begin upon initiation of discharge. Monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board on a quarterly basis, beginning with the Second Quarter 2017. This report shall be submitted on 1 August 2017. If monitoring samples were not obtained within 24 hours of initiation of the discharge, the Discharger must document the reasons in the corresponding monitoring report. If the discharge has not begun there is no need to monitor. However, a monitoring report must be submitted stating that there has been no discharge. Table E-4, below, summarizes the monitoring report due dates required under the Limited Threat General Order. Quarterly monitoring reports must be submitted until your coverage is formally terminated in accordance with the Limited Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter.

Table E-5. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

Sampling Frequency	Monitoring Period Begins On...	Quarterly Report Due Date
1/Day, 1/Week, 1/Month, 1/Quarter	First Day of Discharge	1 May (1 Jan – 31 Mar) 1 Aug (1 Apr – 30 Jun) 1 Nov (1 Jul – 30 Sep) 1 Feb, of following year (1 Oct – 31 Dec)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff within 24 hours of having knowledge of 1) the start of each new discharge, 2) noncompliance, and 3) when the discharge ceases. The Central Valley Water Board shall be notified immediately if any effluent limit violation is observed during implementation of the project.

Discharge of material other than what is described in the application is prohibited. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until this NOA is officially terminated. You must notify this office in writing when the discharge regulated by the Limited Threat General Order is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with the Limited Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. In addition, late monitoring reports may be subject to MMPs or discretionary penalties of up to \$1,000 per day late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly report monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly monitoring report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

COMMUNICATION

All documents, including monitoring reports, response to inspections, written notifications, and documents submitted to comply with this NOA and the Limited Threat General Order, should be submitted to the NPDES Compliance unit, attention Genevieve Sparks. Ms. Sparks can be reached at (916) 464-4821 or Genevieve.Sparks@waterboards.ca.gov.

We have transitioned to a paperless office, therefore, please convert all documents to a searchable Portable Document Format (pdf) and email them to centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov. Please include the following information in the email: Attention: NPDES Compliance section; Discharger: Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Facility: PG&E R-300B, L-407 Phase 1 Natural Gas Pipeline Project; County: Sutter and Placer Counties; and the CIWQS place ID 832087 in the body of the email. Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger must be transferred to a DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "ECM Mailroom-NPDES". Please include the attached Monitoring Report Transmittal Form as the first page of each monitoring report.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the

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Water Quality Manager
PG&E R-300B, L-407 Phase 1 Natural Gas Pipeline Project

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State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

Original Signed by Andrew Altevogt for

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosures: General Order R5-2016-0076 (Discharger only)
Monitoring Report Transmittal Form (Discharger only)

cc: David Smith, U.S. EPA, Region IX, San Francisco (email only)
Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento (email only)

ATTACHMENT A
PG&E R-300B, L-407 PHASE 1 NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT, SUTTER AND PLACER COUNTIES
DISCHARGE POINTS 001 AND 002

PG&E R-300B, L-407 Phase 1 Natural Gas Pipeline Project
Sutter and Placer Counties



● Proposed Discharge Locations